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HARTISMERE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

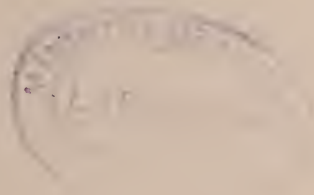
ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the

YEAR 1954



OFFICERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

Medical Officer of Health.

K.M. HARDING, M.D., D.P.H., A.K.C.

Senior Sanitary Inspector and Housing Officer.

H. SPINDLER, Cert. R.S.I. & S.I.E.J.B.

Deputy Senior Sanitary Inspector.

G.H. GRAYSTON, Cert. R.S.I. & S.I.E.J.B.

Assistant Housing Officer & Additional Sanitary Inspector.

N.J. WHITE, Cert. R.S.I. & S.I.E.J.B.

COMMITTEES CONCERNED WITH MATTERS OF PUBLIC HEALTH.

<u>Water Committee</u>	-	-	Council's water undertakings.
<u>Housing Committee</u>	-	-	Improvement of housing amenities under Housing Act, 1949. Provision of housing accommodation by the Council and also by private enterprise.
<u>Public Health Committee</u>	-		Sewerage, refuse collection, rodent control and all other public health functions.

To the Chairman and Members of the Hartismere Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1954.

During the first three months of the year my predecessor, Dr. M.A. Dawson, was in office and I was appointed, following her resignation, from the 1st April, 1954.

The year under consideration has been a healthy one in Hartismere Rural District.

The estimated population (figures supplied by the Registrar General) has remained almost stationary. The standardised Birth Rate has again increased. There has been a reduction in the number of infants who died under the age of one year, and a consequent fall in the Infant Mortality Rate.

The total number of deaths has increased slightly and this is reflected in a small rise in the Standardised Death Rate.

With regard to the causes of death, it will be seen that there has been a sharp increase in those caused by diseases of the Respiratory System. No doubt the cold and wet climate conditions experienced during 1954 are partly responsible.

There is no significant increase this year in the number of deaths due to diseases of the heart and circulatory system, cancer, suicide and violent causes, and tuberculosis.

There was an outbreak of Whooping Cough which began in May and continued for the remainder of the year. Measles was prevalent during the first two quarters and cases continued to be notified until August. There were a number of sporadic cases of Scarlet Fever.

No cases of Poliomyelitis, Diphtheria or Smallpox were reported.

Eight new cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis were discovered in the district during the year, this is two less than last year. There were six new cases of Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis compared with four in 1953. As in 1953 only one death was due to Tuberculosis.

I am most grateful to the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee for their continual support and encouragement. I should also like to express my appreciation to the Sanitary Inspectors, Water Engineer, the clerical staff of the Public Health Department and other members of the staff of the Council for their help at all times.

I am,  
Yours faithfully,

K.M. HARDING,  
Medical Officer of Health.

7th September, 1955.

# 1. GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area	96,486 acres.
Population	17,030.
No. of inhabited houses	5,911
Rateable Value	£45,992.
Product of Penny Rate	£188, 17s. 11d.

## 2. VITAL STATISTICS .                      Males.                      Females.                      Total.

### Live Births.

Legitimate births	124	133	257
Illegitimate births	5	8	13
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
Total births	<u>129</u>	<u>141</u>	<u>270</u>

### Birth Rate.

Crude birth rate per 1,000 population	15.85
Comparability factor	1.17
Standardised birth rate	18.54
Birth rate England and Wales	15.2

### Still Births.                      Males.                      Females.                      Total.

Legitimate	4	-	4
Illegitimate	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Total	<u>4</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>4</u>

### Still Birth Rate.

Still birth rate per 1,000 live and stillbirths	14.5
Still birth rate England and Wales	24.0

### Infant Mortality (Deaths of children under 1 year)

	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Legitimate	3	1	4
Illegitimate	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Total	<u>3</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>4</u>

### Infant Mortality Rate.

Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births	14.85
Infant Mortality Rate England and Wales	25.5

### Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks.

	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Legitimate	2	-	2
Illegitimate	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Total	<u>2</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2</u>

### Infant Mortality.

#### Causes of death of infants under 1 year :-

Congenital malformations	2
Peripheral circulatory failure	1
Lobar Pneumonia	1

<u>Deaths</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
All causes	107	77	184
Crude death rate per 1,000 population			10.39
Comparability factor			0.80
Standardised death rate			8.3
Death rate England and Wales			11.3

The Registrar General has continued to supply a comparability factor, 0.80 by which the Crude Death Rate must be adjusted for comparison with other areas of the Country. As this factor is less than unity the Standardised, or corrected Death Rate is less than the Crude Death Rate. This indicates that Hartismere has a greater "weighting" of elderly persons than the average for the rest of the Country.

<u>Causes of Deaths.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total</u> <u>1954.</u>	<u>Total</u> <u>1953.</u>
Tuberculosis - respiratory	1	-	1	-
Tuberculosis - other	-	-	-	1
Other infective or parasitic diseases	-	-	-	1
Malignant neoplasm - stomach	2	3	5	3
Malignant neoplasm - lung, bronchus	2	2	4	4
Malignant neoplasm - breast	-	3	3	5
Malignant neoplasm - uterus	-	2	2	2
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	14	6	20	17
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	-	-	-	1
Diabetes	-	-	-	2
Vascular lesions of nervous system	11	11	22	20
Coronary disease - angina	15	7	22	30
Hypertension with heart disease	1	3	4	4
Other heart disease	18	22	40	35
Other circulatory disease	11	1	12	12
Pneumonia	4	1	5	1
Bronchitis	8	4	12	5
Other diseases of respiratory system	-	1	1	1
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	-	1	1
Nephritis and nephrosis	-	1	1	1
Hyperplasia of prostate	3	-	3	2
Congenital malformations	2	-	2	1
Other defined and ill defined diseases	6	9	15	17
Motor vehicle accidents	1	-	1	2
All other accidents	3	1	4	4
Suicide	4	-	4	3
	<u>107</u>	<u>77</u>	<u>184</u>	<u>175</u>

#### Cancer.

There were 34 deaths from Cancer in 1954 compared with 31 in 1953.

#### Cancer Death Rate

Hartismere	1.996	per 1,000 population.
East Suffolk	2.1	per 1,000 population.



Vital Statistics - Summary for past 5 years.

	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	England & Wales 1954
Population	17,110	17,190	17,180	17,080	17,030	
Live Births	252	284	233	236	270	
Crude birth rate per 1,000 population	14.7	16.5	13.56	13.8	15.85	
Standardised birth rate	17.9	20.13	16.5	16.8	18.54	15.2
Deaths of Infants under 1 year	4	8	6	7	4	
Infant Mortality Rate	29.8	28.2	25.7	29.7	14.85	25.5
Deaths	201	258	227	175	184	
Crude death rate	11.7	14.4	13.2	10.2	10.39	
Standardised death rate	9.4	11.52	10.56	8.16	8.3	11.3

Summary of Principal Causes of Death for past 5 years.

	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954
Diseases of Cardiac and Circulatory System (including Cerebral Haemorrhage)	101	141	127	101	100
Cancer	40	31	39	31	34
Diseases of Respiratory System (excluding Tuberculosis)	13	21	15	7	18
Tuberculosis - all forms	5	6	6	1	1
Suicide and Violent Causes	6	8	7	9	9

Monthly Notification of Notifiable Disease (excluding Tuberculosis)

3.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
Scarlet Fever	-	3	6	-	1	3	-	-	1	-	1	3	18
Whooping Cough	-	-	-	-	5	14	11	24	15	3	14	6	92
Measles	1	2	13	10	26	11	4	2	-	-	-	-	69
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Acute Pneumonia	-	1	1	1	-	1	2	-	2	-	-	3	11
Total	1	6	20	11	32	29	17	26	18	3	16	12	191



Notifiable Diseases - Age Distribution.

	0-	1-	3-	5-	10-	15-	25-	45-	65-	Total
Scarlet Fever	-	-	-	13	5	-	-	-	-	18
Whooping Cough	7	14	24	44	3	-	-	-	-	92
Measles	1	7	8	46	4	2	1	-	-	69
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Acute Pneumonia	-	-	1	3	-	1	3	1	2	11
Total	8	21	33	106	12	3	5	1	2	191

Notifiable Diseases - Summary for past 5 years.

	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954
Scarlet Fever	6	21	4	5	18
Whooping Cough	31	146	40	45	92
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-
Measles	398	96	172	56	69
Acute Pneumonia	14	8	14	1	11
Meningococcal infection	-	-	-	-	-
Poliomyelitis	2	1	2	1	-
Encephalitis	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery	-	-	1	-	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	-	-	-	1	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	4	1	1
Smallpox	-	-	-	-	-
Paratyphoid	-	-	-	-	-
Typhoid	-	1	-	-	-
Food Poisoning	-	8	-	-	-
Erysipelas	-	-	1	2	-
Malaria	-	-	-	1	-
Infective Hepatitis	12	6	1	1	-

4. DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION ( Figures kindly supplied by the County Medical Officer).

No. of children receiving primary immunisation - 167  
 No. of children receiving Booster injections - 114

5. TUBERCULOSIS

	<u>Males</u>		<u>Females</u>		
	<u>Pulm.</u>	<u>Non-Pulm.</u>	<u>Pulm.</u>	<u>Non-Pulm.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Cases on register at 1.1.54	37	12	20	12	81
Primary Notifications	3	4	5	2	14
Transfers in	2	-	2	-	4
Total	42	16	27	14	99
<u>Cases taken off Register in 1954</u>					
Deaths	2	-	-	-	2
Recovered	1	-	1	1	3
Removed from District	1	1	1	-	3
Re-diagnosed Non T.B.	-	1	-	-	1
Total removed	4	2	2	1	9
No. of cases remaining on register at 31.12.54	38	14	25	13	90

Occupations of New Cases.

School child 3; Housewife 3; Clerk 1; No occupation 1;  
 Farm Worker 1; Joiner 1; Cleaner 1; Publican 1;  
 Pensioner 1; Shop Assistant 1;

Ages of New Cases.

Males - 8, 10, 32, 38, 58, 64, 68.  
 Females - 5, 15, 26, 35, 42, 63, 74.

Notification Rates.

Pulmonary (Hartismere) 0.47 per 1,000 population.  
 Pulmonary (East Suffolk) 0.43 per 1,000 population.  
 Non-Pulmonary (Hartismere) 0.35 per 1,000 population.  
 Non-Pulmonary (East Suffolk) 0.17 per 1,000 population.

Tuberculosis - Statistical Summary for Past 5 Years.

	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954
Number added to Register by Primary Notification.					
(a) Pulmonary	7	10	17	10	8
(b) Non-Pulmonary	4	2	3	4	6
Total No. added to Register	15	14	20	16	18
Deaths for -					
(a) Pulmonary	5	4	6	-	2
(b) Non-Pulmonary	-	2	-	1	-

## 6. WATER SUPPLY.

### (a) Construction Works.

During the year mains were laid in Palgrave, Brome, Oakley, Braiseworth, Fressingfield and Monk Soham.

### (b) Water Examinations.

Well Water - 10 samples were taken, 6 of these were satisfactory and 4 unsatisfactory.

Mains - 16 routine samples were submitted for examination, of these 14 were satisfactory and 2 unsatisfactory. The unsatisfactory samples had obviously been contaminated in taking, and fresh samples taken from the same points were found to be satisfactory.

### (c) Well Water Cyanosis.

During the year 23 samples were taken - 12 of these were found to be safe and 11 unsafe (this figure includes 4 which were termed as doubtful). The families concerned, in the unsafe cases, were warned and advised about obtaining an alternative supply.

### (d) Weybread Gravel Pit.

Water samples were taken during the year from the pit used by the Harleston Swimming Club. The samples proved to be more satisfactory than those of the previous year. The Department continued to advise the Club on measures of general hygiene for its members.

## 7. SEWERAGE.

Bedfield - The drainage scheme for the 10 Council Houses was completed.

Fressingfield and Weybread - Work on this scheme was commenced.

Stradbroke - Extension to existing sewers at Wilby Road and New Street was commenced and completed.

Redgrave and Redlingfield - Drainage schemes for Council houses were prepared.

## 8. HOUSING

### (a) New Housing

During the year 42 Council houses were built.

### (b) Housing Statistics as Required Under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925, Article 31.

Number of houses which on inspection were considered to be unfit for human habitation 76

The number of houses the defects in which were remedied in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers 18



The number of representations made to the Local Authority with a view to

(a) the serving of notices requiring the execution of works	nil
(b) the making of demolition or closing orders	1

The number of notices served requiring the execution of works

	1
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The number of houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices

	1
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The number of demolition or closing orders made

	1
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The number of houses in respect of which an undertaking was accepted under sub-section (2) of section nineteen of the Housing Act, 1930

	nil
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The number of houses demolished

	5
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9. MILK DEALERS LICENCES.

Pasteurised Milk - 7 Dealers and 7 Supplementary licences were issued.

Tuberculin Tested Milk - 5 Dealers and 5 Supplementary licences were issued.

10. MILK SAMPLING

No. of samples taken by East Suffolk County Council - 23  
 No. containing Tuberculosis organisms - nil.  
 No. containing Brucella organisms - 1

11. NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948 - Section 47

One elderly man who was living alone and suffering from Arteriosclerosis and who was unable to receive in his home proper care and attention was transferred to hospital.

12. FACTORIES ACT 1937 and 1948.

Number of factories with mechanical power - 45  
 Number of factories without mechanical power - 5  
 Other premises - building sites etc - 54  
 Number of inspections made - 62  
 Number of defects found - 5  
 Number of defects remedied - 5